

ASHWAUBENON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Held on Monday, March 23 2009

A. CALL TO ORDER:

President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the District Offices.

B. ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present: Crowley, Laukka, Van Laanen, Williams, Aubinger
Board Members Excused: None
Others Present: Dave Schmidt, Keith Lucius, Brian Nelsen, Wendy Catalano, Linda Noel, Brad Taylor, Kurt Weyers, Mark Sheedy, Jen Kozak,, Michael Sheean, Kris Hucek, Dave Steavpack, Pete Marto

C. DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Quorum present.

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge was recited.

E. ADOPT AGENDA:

President asked that Item F2 (Bright Lights) be delayed until 7:00 pm for students who will be presenting to arrive. Moved by Crowley, seconded by Van Laanen to adopt the agenda as written. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

F. CITIZENS AND/OR DELEGATIONS:

1. Public Forum: No one appeared.
2. Bright Lights: Mark Sheedy introduced Jamie Olenski, David Stroud, and Tom Barnhart who are technology and engineering educators at the High School. They along with four of their students updated the Board on Supermileage, Electrathon, and SkillsUSA, after school programs they are involved with at the High School with focus and background on technology and engineering skills. The four students who discussed these activities/programs with the Board were:
 - Nate Degeneffe
 - Kelsey Schroeder
 - Alex Wierschke
 - Cody Curtain

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

Mike Aubinger asked that Item #4 of the consent agenda be handled separately.

Moved by Van Laanen, seconded by Crowley to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held on Monday, March 9, 2009,
2. Schedule of checks written 03/01/09 – 03/15/09,
3. Schedule of manual checks 03/01/09 – 03/15/09.

Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

4. Retirement Request of Linda Noel. Mike Aubinger said he asked that this item be considered separately to publicly thank Linda Noel for her 18 years of service to the School Board and District. Other Board Members concurred.

Moved by Aubinger, seconded by Crowley to approve the retirement request of Linda Noel, Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools and School Board, to retire at the end of the 2008-09 school year according to the conditions outlined in the Exempt Staff Contract. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

H. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION:

1. High School Course Scheduling: AP Related:

President Williams said this issue was discussed at the last meeting and the Board asked that it be placed on the agenda this evening for more information on the scheduling issues.

Mark Sheedy explained at this time it appears that there may be seven students who will be applying for AP Calculus through Youth Options at St. Norbert College next spring. Also he has had several discussions with David Schmidt, and we will also be looking at the option of on-line course work in the future with a teacher/mentor available to assist the student.

David Schmidt explained the budget and financial implications of running courses with low enrollment numbers and different options/considerations on the part of the district to meet educational needs for all students.

Mark Sheedy said that his experiences with the youth options program have been excellent and that the school the students would attend would give them an excellent educational program.

Mark Williams asked about the deadline for filing for youth options. David Schmidt said it is April 1st in order to enroll in the fall semester of the 2009-10 school year.

Mike Aubinger had some concerns about this issue – particularly about the statement Mark said that the “schedule is getting in the way”. It concerns him and it has since block schedule was initiated that these types of choices keep happening – it causes some confusion and issues for students getting to pick the classes they would like.

Ginny Laukka had a question about the cost and the “magic number” of adding FTE or pursuing a class through youth options. Mark Sheedy said he figures it at 9 students or less would not be cost effective. Ginny had a question about other AP course offerings, i.e., AP Psychology and the district increasing the number of AP Psych classes being offered rather than AP Calculus and AP Chemistry which are much more rigorous programs.

Jay asked what AP classes the district will be scheduling next year. Mark Sheedy said there will be about five or six AP classes, averaging between 15-22 students per class. At this time the classes that are being offered are as follows:

1. AP Biology
2. AP Government
3. AP Psychology
4. AP Art History
5. AP US History
6. College Credit English

Mike Aubinger asked how much it would cost to add a section. Mark Sheedy said approximately \$12,000 - \$15,000.

Ginny Laukka talked about the process the district uses to get students to AP Calculus. She said she feels there needs to be a process/vehicle in place to get students to move up the curriculum, and in the past this has been a stumbling block to some students. She said there must be something we can do to accommodate students better to get them to move more easily up the paths to higher level courses and guidance counselors should also help students with this process.

Mark Sheedy talked about looking at the math program in the same way that we recently did with the English and science curriculum. We need to look at the tracks for math as well to see how to get students to the higher level courses in math (AP Calculus).

Mike Aubinger reminded everyone about the vision and mission of the district and abiding by them to create world class citizens. He said he wants to make sure that we are meeting student needs at both ends of the educational spectrum.

Mark Williams said to summarize the issue, students have some options available to them if a class is cancelled – they can apply to take the class under youth options, or as an on-line course. In the next six weeks, David Schmidt will work on putting something in place as far as teacher/mentors to handle the on-line course situation. David Schmidt said this situation and others like it are a challenge for the district in the future – to meet the educational needs for all students and to figure out a way to shift resources to meet those varying student needs.

Sharon Brecklin, South Courtland Avenue, parent of one of the students who will not be able to take AP Calculus next year, talked about some concerns she has about this happened. She said her student (along with the others) streamlined their coursework and followed the course selection process outlined in the course booklet to get to the point of being able to take AP Calculus. Only now they have been told the class will not be available to them next year. She said one problem is scheduling and maybe the high school needs to stagger the times when AP classes are offered. Also with block schedule there is less flexibility in choosing which classes to take. She said that as a parent she is very frustrated that these students have worked very hard to get to this point and now the rules have changed and the course isn't being offered.

Sherry Drews, View Lane, parent of one of the AP Calculus students, had a concern about the on-line process said she would be concerned about a program being thrown together for a class for these students in six weeks. David Schmidt explained that the district would not be putting the class together – we would buy an on-line program that is proven and tested. What we would work on would be having a teacher/mentor equipped and available to work with students who would take AP Calculus as an on-line course.

Belinda Olsen, Newcastle Lane, said their family is doing college tours right now and they are being told to be sure and take AP classes as much as possible. She said she wonders if we as a district are keeping up with other school districts in offering needed AP courses. It appears we are offering fewer and less rigorous AP classes than other area districts. She said that she is very disappointed in that AP Calculus isn't available for these students next year.

Bob Crowley talked about having a mentor set up to work with students if an on-line course would be offered. He said the district would make sure the students could be as successful as possible.

Jason Fonder, Finch Lane, said he does not have a vested interested in this issue right now but he has a younger student that he would see facing the same situation. He said as a parent he would be concerned if this happened again in the future. He said the district needs to look at this issue and build in some parachutes for similar situations in the future as far as offering AP classes for students

that would like to take them. As a declining enrollment district we need to look forward on this issue and take this as a learning experience to make sure this doesn't happen again. As a parent he feels this class of students was told this class was going to be there and now it isn't which is upsetting to these families.

Mike Aubinger said we need to look at distance learning and see if technology has changed since we last looked at it and found it cost prohibitive. The district also needs to look at all the options available before we start cutting classes like this in the future.

Lissa Marth, Waterford Drive, said need to be mindful of how we got to some of those lower numbers – maybe we can survey students for their AP wish list and establish some type of priority process. There are other AP issues out there and students keep being moved/changed from one class to another before final classes are assigned.

Sharon Brecklin asked that something be put in the course booklet explaining what could happen if student numbers aren't there for particular course. This information wasn't in the booklet for students to be aware of and she feels these students didn't get what they were promised.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- **Hiring Director of Curriculum & Instruction Update:**

David Schmidt said this position has been posted and we have received over 20 applications that we are screening this week. He expects to bring something for the board at the 2nd meeting in April. At this time asking if any board member is interested in participating in this process. If you want to be a part of the interview/selection process please contact him. Interviews will probably be the week after next.

Mark Williams said anyone interested should contact Dave.

- **April 13th Board Meeting:**

Board Members decided to leave the meeting as scheduled but schedule a special meeting sometime during the week of April 6th or earlier to approving open enrollment applications.

J. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Girl's Hockey Program

Dave Steavpack said he doesn't have anything to add on this issue. This was discussed in detail at the last meeting and the Board was informed on this issue and that there would be no cost to the district if approved by the Board.

Mike Aubinger had a question about a possible obligation even if there weren't any Ashwaubenon students are involved in the program. Dave Steavpack said no obligations or additional financial requirements would be there for the district, and that Green Bay will be the host school for the program. At this point in time just asking for Board approval to start the coop.

Moved by Van Laanen, seconded by Crowley to approve joining the co-op as requested. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

2. Youth Options Requests

Moved by Aubinger, seconded by Laukka to allow Bob Crowley to abstain from the vote this evening. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

Moved by Aubinger, seconded by Laukka to approve the six youth options requests to attend St. Norbert College as presented. Aye 4, nay 0, abstain 1. Motion carried 4:0:1.

3. District Budget Update

Keith updated the board on the budget, staffing reductions are included and we are still looking at the need for an additional \$380,000 in budget cuts to balance the budget. He reviewed some of the recommended budget balancing items the district is looking at.

Board Members had questions on the boiler situation at the High School and the maintenance plan projects.

Keith said that the enrollment driven staffing reductions have been included in the proposed budget (-5.3 FTE). Administration is working on total staffing plan for next year which will be brought back to the Board for adoption at a future meeting.

Dave Schmidt explained that May 15th is the deadline for staff layoff notices as a result of staffing reductions.

4. TIF #2

Dave Schmidt gave some background on this issue and said that TIF #2 will result in approximately \$1.2 million in monies for the district as a result of the Village closing out this program.

Mark Williams gave said previously the possibility of using these funds for a pool and/or auditorium project has been discussed, but said Mike Aubinger brought up the possibility of doing some projects/improvements at Parkview with these monies rather than having to go to referendum to accomplish meet those building needs.

Keith Lucius explained that Mike Beno has been working with Kris Hucek and Michael Sheean Parkview Middle School to come up with some projects/recommendations to address some needs/concerns at that building. Mike Beno reviewed the list of eight items totaling approximately \$555,930 that he, Kris Hucek, and Michael Sheean came up with. Most of these items have basically been pulled out of the five year maintenance plan and would free up money from that plan in the future if these things were done using TIF monies. Mike Beno said that these are general cost estimates at this time.

Mark Williams asked about the possibility of having the Village hold the monies for the district and then do the project and pay for it rather than having the school district spend the monies and then be negatively aided. Keith Lucius said he hasn't found a way to do this by talking to DPI. Mark Williams said he was thinking more about a community pool and/or auditorium and have the Village be the entity responsible for implementing it and use TIF monies from the District.

Jay Van Laanen said it is his understanding that the District wouldn't be negatively aided if projects at Parkview were approved and paid for through a referendum. Keith Lucius agreed that is the case.

Mark Williams talked about there would be a need for preliminary plans being developed for the pool project. Dave Schmidt explained that the Village, along with the District and the pool committee has agreed to develop a plan at a cost of about \$7500 to be split among the different groups to create preliminary plans for a pool.

David Schmidt said this is not an either/or but rather how you want to spend the dollars that the district will receive from the TIF closeout in possibly several ways.

Mike Aubinger said the District needs to make sure that we can leave the funds with the Village and that there would be no long-range disadvantage to doing this – there should be an advantage to the District if they do this. Keith will work with DPI and the Village to make sure this is the case.

This issue will be placed on a future agenda when more is known.

Ginny Laukka asked if Mike Beno could create a list of things that would have been done through the maintenance plan as far as Parkview Middle School in the list he presented this evening.

K. BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS:

David Schmidt – nothing to report.

Mark Williams said this past week he attended a High School Speech Class which was very enlightening. He also wanted to thank the people who put on the “Taste of Ashwaubenon” as they did a wonderful job.

L. FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS & TOPICS:

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Van Laanen, seconded by Crowley to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Aye 5, nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Van Laanen, Clerk